## ORDER FROM CHAOS

Herculean Task Accomplished by Mr. Boobar.

**EVERY BOOK READY TO HAND** 

Librarian Found Topsy-Turvy Condi tions-Every Document Now Under Card Index.

Bringing order out of chaos never had an apter meaning than in the herculean task just accomplished by John J. Boobar, Librarian of the House

Mr. Boobar, who took charge of the House library three years ago, has re-doubled his efforts this summer during the dull season to bring to a conclusi the extensive improvements which he undertook for the immense document room containing over 225,000 volumes, covering a half acre of space.

Ready to Hand.

When Congress convenes again this fall Representatives desiring to delve into the archives of the past will be astonished to find the former dusty old thing of beauty. The search for books is made so easy that undoubtedly the library will enjoy a big increase in popu-

The House library has an interesting history. Many unique characters were

history. Many unique characters were connected with it. Among them was "Billy" Smith, an old-time negro, who was employed about the place, but who in reality was the only one who could ever find a book on the topsy-turvy shelves. In consequence, he enjoyed the esteem and patronage of those old-time leaders who roamed about the archive rooms looking for records with which to back up their arguments.

It is said that old Billy Smith accomplished the feat of locating books by sheer force of memory. At that time there was no special system for the arrangement of the volumes and the various records of congress, and legislative documents were tucked away in many odd nooks. When the other librarians could not lay their hands on the desired books they would send for Billy Smith, who would start on a hunt that was usually successful.

A Complete Record.

Few people have any idea of the great extent of the House library. It con-tains copies of all the printed pro-ceedings pertaining to sessions of Con-

At present fourteen duplicate copies of each House document are kept on file. Formerly there were fifty of each. Even in those days nearly all the space

was choked up.

Up in a little loft that overlooks Statuary Hail, where few people would notice it, Mr. Boobar, the librarian, now holds his sway. Far down below in the basement, about a quarter of a mile away, Mr. Boobar has another domain.

away, Mr. Boobar has another domain. It is in the upper office, however, that he transacts most of his business. It is in this document room that he keeps the latest issues. He usually has enough on hand to supply all the needs of members.

The basement library is known as the "reserve." This extends all the way under the Capitol and covers half an acre. In it are stored an immense number of books. A very different scene is presented there now than what formerly existed. erly existed

Task Seemed Impossible.

"When I first went down in that base ment three years ago," said Mr. Boobar, I thought I had an almost impossible task before me. The room was so full of dust that at the opening of the door it flew up in my face and nearly choked "Half a century's dust lay on the floor

and on the books nearly an inch deep. There was furthermore little evidence of had charge of it to arrange the books with any semblance of regularity. Most of the books were kicking around the like so many blocks of wood. 'I saw at once that it was necessary

to get the place clean and new before anything could be done in the matter of arrangement. So I had one of the rooms completely emptied. I then began the work of sorting all the rest of the basement library, with the clean room as a sort of reservoir.

Butterworth & Dowell) Loan & Trust long.

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Too Many and Too Few.

'We found to begin with that there were a totally unnecessary number of some books and too few of another. As Congress has made the provision that the Government Printing Office shall issue only fourteen copies of each volume to the House library, instead of fifty, as before, I decided to adopt that as my regular standard. The superfluous old books, therefore, I sent back to the printing office to be sent out to the various repositories. The others I had carefully collected and rebound. "We have now a complete chain of every document of the Congress ever issued. Members, furthermore, are assisted by a modern card system, which enables the librarian to lay his hand on a book at a moment's notice.

Recorded and Protected.

"In the basement we have adopted the pian of wrapping up each book in a paper parcel. On the back of this is stamped its number, according to the catalogue. It is a very simple matter to locate the book, while at the same time the paper keeps it clean and new. "It is very interesting to note how the volumes vary for the different Conwere a totally unnecessary number of some books and too few of another. As

"It is very interesting to note how the clumes vary for the different Congresses. For the First Congress, held in

corders made a note of on that memorable occasion.

"Contrast that with the records of our last session, for instance, where a space for twelve volumes is required, on the shelf, and each of these volumes is an octavo, with 1,000 pages each. Of course, the stenographic form of reporting has aided in the increase.

"We find that the fourteen copies now issued is amply sufficient. I hope now to have everything so systematized that the library will prove what it should be, a complete and ready reference for members of Congress, who desire to search in records of the past."

JULES VERNE AT HOME.

Jules Verne rises early, like most sucessful writers, and has accomplished his day's work before noon. The afterpapers and magazines. "I read twenty journals a day," he told me; and he finds there the material for his romantic voyages. He began life with thoughts of the law. He studied the manuals of the law. He studied the manuals of the jurisconsults to please his parents; but he wrote plays in verse to please himself. It is difficult to imagine the well ordered fancy and scientific precision of a Jules Verne harnessed to so runaway a steed as the dramatic Muse. He wrote at least a dozen poetical dramas, none of which, he declared, with a tinge of sadness in his tones, saw the light. Jules Verne even wrote an historical drama founded on the English gunpowder plot.—The Pall Mail.

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F. WARREN JOHNSON, 1224 Pa. ave.

DYER AND CLEANER.

A. REEVES, 920 9th nw. FAMILY WINE MERCHANT. CHRIS XANDER, 909 7th st. nw. FLORISTS AND DECORATORS.

IENRY PRISTER, 1120 Connecticut ave.

ACKISTONE, 14th and H sts. nw. E. BROOKS, 1527 14th st. nw. R. FREEMAN, 612 18th st. nw. LOUISE LOOSE, 18th and F sts. LEY BROS., 722 9th st. nw. MAYEERRY & HOOVER, 1839 14th st. nw.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

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J. R. FREEMAN, 612 13th st. nw.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS. W R. SPEARE, 940 F st. nw. JOS. GAWLER, 1730-34 Pa. ave. (parlor for JOS. GAWLER, 1730-34 Fa. ave. (parior for services.)

JOS. F. BIRCH'S SONS, 3034 M st. nw. AUGUSTUS BURGDORF CO., 2009 7th st. nw. LEWIS E. DUVALL, 474 E st. sw. JOHN ELBERT, 54 H st. nw. R. F. HARVEY'S SONS, 1235 14th st. nw. JOHN M. MITCHELL, 729 11th se. WILLIAM S. RILEY, 209 2d se. THOS. R. NALLEY & SON, 1236 11th st. se. THOS. S. SPRGEON, 1011 7th nw. ADOLPH J. SCHIPPERT, 2008 Pa. 2ve.

FURNITURE AND CARPETS. H. BURKHART'S SON, 1018-1015 7th st. nw. P. J. NEE COMPANY, 7th and H sts. nw. WM. E. MLLER, 7th and E sts. sw.

FURNITURE, SECOND-HAND. CAMMACK & BRO., 621-627 Mass. ave, HOPWOOD'S, cor. 8th and K sts. nw.

GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES.

THE E. F. BROOKS CO., 531 15th st. C. A. MUDDIMAN & CO., 616 12th st. GAS AND GASOLENE STOVES. W. S. JENKS, 717 7th st. nw.

GROCERIES AND LIQUORS. GROCERIES AND LIQUORS.

C. C. BRYAN, 1413 N. Y. ave.
G. G. CORNWELL & SON, 1412-1418 Pa. ave.
JOHN H. MAGRUDER, Conn. ave. and K st.
JOHN H. MAGRUDER, Conn. ave. and K st.
JACKSON & CO., 626 Pa. ave.
H. W. FISHER & SON (Inc.), 32d and N sts.
W. R. BROWN, 20th st. and Pa. ave.
BARRON BROS., 3275 M st. nw,
FRED, A. DODGE, 7th and T nw,
HARRELL'S MARKET, 1816 14th nw.
WM. T. REED, 19th st. and Pa. ave.
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HAIR BRAIDS, SHAMPOOING.

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VEST END LAUNDRY, 1753 Pa. ave. nw. McCRAY REFRIGERATORS.

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M. A. LEESE, 214 9th st. nw.
CLAFLIN OPTICAL CO., 207 F st. nw.
JAS, M. DEAN., 1111 G st. nw. (late with
Franklin.)

F. H. EDMONDS, 1418 N. Y. ave. J. H. HEMPLER, cor. 6th st. and Pa. ave. PAWNBROKERS.

H. K. FULTON, 314 9th st. BURNSTINE'S, 361 Pa. ave, PHARMACISTS.

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G. G. C. C. SIMS, N. Y. ave. and 14th st.
LOUIS F. BRADLEY, 8th and E se.
A. T. BRONAUGH, 7th and P sts. nw.
DODGE & PORTMAN, 14th and L nw.
WM. P. HEBBST, 6th and D nw.
THE KOSS PHARMACY, 7th st. and Fla. ave.
MODERN DRUG CO., 414 7th nw.
W. J. O'DONNELL'S, 32d and M.
PORTMAN'S PHARMACY, 1400 14th nw.
W. S. RICHARDSON & 16 4½ st. sw.
F. R. RICHARDSON & CO., 3d st. and Pa. ave.
SAMUEL T. STOTT, 505 Pa. ave.

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